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AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An image capturing system comprising:
a visual sensor providing image data corresponding to sensed images, the visual sensor selectively directed toward a first writing surface to sense successive linear array portions of a first image and toward a second area spaced apart from the first writing surface to sense successive linear array portions of a second image; and
an image processor coupled to the visual sensor to receive the image data from the visual sensor, the image processor ~~capable of processing~~ adapted to process the image data as a function of processing values, wherein the processing values are a function of direction of the visual sensor toward the first writing surface ~~and~~ the second area.
2. (currently amended) The image capturing system of claim 1 and further comprising:
a storage device for storing the processing values comprising a first processing value and a second processing value, wherein the image processor processes the image data of the first writing surface using the first processing value, and wherein the image processor processes the image data of the second area using the second processing value.
3. (original) The image capturing system of claim 2 wherein the visual sensor includes a zoom lens, and wherein the first processing value relates to a first setting of the zoom lens and the second processing value relates to a second setting of the zoom lens.

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4. (original) The image capturing system of claim 2 wherein the first processing value relates to an optical correction for distortion of the first image and the second processing value relates to an optical correction for distortion of the second image.

5. (original) The image capturing system of claim 1 wherein the visual sensor comprises a sensing device having a plurality of sensing elements.

6. (original) The image capturing system of claim 5 wherein the sensing device comprises a linear array of sensing elements.

7. (currently amended) An image capturing system comprising:
a visual sensor adapted to provide image data corresponding to sensed visual images of a writing surface and a second area spaced apart from the writing surface, wherein the sensed visual images each comprise successive linear array portions; and
an image processor coupled to the visual sensor to receive the image data from the visual sensor, the image processor adapted to identify ~~capable of identifying~~ information provided on the writing surface apart from the writing surface and further adapted to identify information provided on the second area apart from the second area; and
a storage device for storing reference visual images, wherein the image processor is coupled to the storage device to access the reference visual images corresponding to each of the writing surface and the second area to identify information provided on the writing surface and the second area.

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8. (cancelled)

9. (currently amended) The image capturing system of claim 7 wherein the visual sensor comprises a sensing device adapted to scan the writing surface under the second area.

10. (currently amended) The image capturing system of claim 7 and further comprising a storage device for storing a processing values related to correction of the visual images from the writing surface and the second area for optical distortion, wherein the image processor is coupled to the storage device to access and use the processing values during image processing.

11. (original) The image capturing system of claim 7 wherein the image processor is adapted to identify an area requiring reimaging.

12. (currently amended) The image capturing system of claim 11 wherein the image processor controls the visual sensor to obtain at least one a-second visual image corresponding to the at least one portion of the writing surface or the second area ~~at least the area~~, if reimaging is required, and wherein the processor is adapted to combine the first-mentioned visual images with the at least one second visual image.

13. (currently amended) An image capturing system comprising:
a visual sensor providing image data corresponding to sensed images from each of a writing surface under a second area spaced apart from the writing surface, the visual sensor comprising a set of adjacent sensing elements being exposed collectively to successive linear array portions of the images;

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a storage device for storing sensing element control values; and
a controller coupled to the storage device and the visual sensor, the controller controlling a time duration of exposure of the sensing elements to each the linear array portion of images as a function of exposure to successive linear array portions.

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14. (currently amended) The image capturing system of claim 13 wherein a sensing element control value is provided for each sensing element for each successive linear array portion of the images.

15. (currently amended) The image capturing system of claim 13 and further comprising:

an image processor coupled to the visual sensor to receive the image data from the visual sensor, the image processor adapted to identify ~~capable of identifying~~ information provided on the writing surface ~~and~~ the second area apart from the writing surface or the second area, respectively.

16. (currently amended) The image capturing system of claim 15 and further comprising a storage device for storing ~~a~~ reference visual images from each of a writing surface and a second area, and wherein the image processor is coupled to the storage device to access the reference visual images to identify information provided on the writing surface ~~and~~ the second area.

17. (currently amended) The image capturing system of claim 15 and further comprising a storage device for storing ~~a~~ processing values related to correction of each the visual image for optical

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distortion, wherein the image processor is coupled to the storage device to access and use the processing values during image processing.

18. (currently amended) In combination with a defined writing surface provided in a fixed location in a room and a second area spaced apart from the writing surface, an image capturing system disposed in the room at a second location remote from the writing surface and the second area to sense successive visual images from each of at least one of the writing surface and the second area and adapted to identify information provided on the at least one of the writing surface and the second area, wherein sensing comprises sensing successive linear array portions of each visual image, and wherein the image capturing system includes an image processor to identify information on the writing surface and a second area as a function of reference visual images of each of the writing surface and the second area.

19. (cancelled)

20. (original) The combination of claim 18 wherein the image capturing system includes a visual sensor disposed above the writing surface.

21. (original) The combination of claim 20 wherein the visual sensor is mounted to a ceiling of the room.

22. (currently amended) The combination of claim 18 wherein the image capturing system includes a visual sensor disposed within the room to sense images of the ~~at least one of the writing surface and the second area spaced apart from the writing surface.~~

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23. (original) The combination of claim 22 wherein the visual sensor is mounted to a wall of the room.

24. (original) The combination of claim 23 wherein the visual sensor is disposed above the writing surface.

25. (original) The combination of claim 24 wherein the visual sensor is mounted to a ceiling of the room.

26. (currently amended) The combination of claim 18 wherein the image capturing system includes a visual sensor adapted to scan the ~~at least one of the writing surface~~ under the second area.

27. (currently amended) A method of obtaining information provided on ~~at least one of a writing surface~~ and a second area spaced apart from the writing surface in a room, the method including:

locating an image capturing system at a second location in the room remote from the writing surface and the second area;
sensing ~~a visual images from each of the at least one of the writing surface and the second area~~ with the image capturing system, wherein sensing comprises sensing successive linear array portions of the visual images;
and

identifying information provided on the ~~at least one of the writing surface and the second area~~ with the image capturing system, wherein identifying information includes identifying information as a function of reference visual images of the writing surface and the second area.

28. (cancelled)

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29. (currently amended) The method of claim 27 wherein sensing a visual images includes compensating for distortion of the visual images.

30. (currently amended~~previously presented~~) The method of claim 27 wherein sensing includes sensing a plurality of visual images of each of the ~~at least one of the~~ writing surface and the second area.

31. (currently amended) The method of claim 30 wherein identifying includes identifying information as a function of a plurality of visual images from each of the ~~at least one of the~~ writing surface and the second area.

32. (previously presented) The method of claim 31 wherein identifying includes comparing a first visual image to a second visual image.

33. (previously presented) The method of claim 31 wherein sensing a visual image includes initiating sensing of a visual image with a switch movable relative to the second location.

34. (currently amended) The method of claim 31 wherein the image capturing system is selectively directable to obtain the visual image of each of the ~~at least one of the~~ writing surface and the second area, the method further comprising directing the image capture system toward the writing surface ~~and~~ the second area, and wherein sensing includes sensing a visual image of each of the writing surface ~~and~~ the second area.

35. (currently amended) The method of claim 34 wherein a switch is operated to direct the image capture system toward the writing

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surface ~~under~~ the second area.

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36. (currently amended) The method of claim 34 wherein sensing comprises providing image data corresponding to the visual images of each of the at least one of the writing surface and the second area, and wherein the method further comprises storing a first processing value and a second processing value, and processing the image data using the first processing value and the second processing value as a function of direction of the image capture system toward the writing surface ~~under~~ the second area, respectively.

37. (currently amended) The method of claim 31 wherein sensing comprises scanning each of the at least one of the writing surface and the second area.

38. (currently amended) The method of claim 31 wherein identifying information includes detecting at least one an area of ~~the at least one of the~~ writing surface and the second area requiring reimaging.

39. (currently amended) The method of claim 38 and further comprising:

reimaging at least the at least one area of ~~the at least one of the~~ writing surface and the second area to obtain at least one a second visual image; and
combining the first-mentioned at lease one visual image with the second at least one visual image.